

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LOME
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, MOPS, CG, GB
SUBJECT: GABON DEFENDS PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN ZAIRE

1. SUMMARY: EDITORIALS IN LIBREVILLE'S DAILY "L'UNION" FOR TWO DAYS RUNNING HAVE DEFENDED RIGHT OF AFRICA'S "DEMOCRATIC" STATE TO INTERVENE IN SHABA AND HAVE CRITIZED AFRICA'S "PROGRESSIVE" STATE (NOTABLY ANGOLA) OPPOSING PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNE 7 EDITORIAL REFUTED "PROGRESSIVE" COUNTRIES' CLAIMS THAT PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE WILL SERVE TO SUPPORT DICTATORIAL REGIMES. RAISING QUESTION OF JUST WHICH REGIMES ARE DICTATORIAL, EDITORIAL PLACED GABON ABOVE REPROACH. IT QUOTED PRESIDENT BONGO'S

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STATEMENT FROM RECENT PARIS NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE COULD NOT JUDGE DEGREES OF REPRESENTATIVENESS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS BECAUSE HE "IS THE EXPRESSION OF HIS PEOPLE; WAS ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE." IN CONTRAST, "PROGRESSIVE" REGIMES USE TERMS DEMOCRACY AND REVOLUTION AS POLITICAL WINDOW DRESSING TO COVER OVER ARBITRARY ARREST AND OTHER DENIALS OF HUMAN

RIGHTS.

3. GABON FEELS IT CANNOT STAND IDLY BY WHILE A MINORITY ATTEMPTS TO PLUNGE AFRICA INTO CHAOS AND BY SO DOING PLACE CONTINENT UNDER "THE YOKE OF IMPERIALISM". FOR THIS REASON BONGO CALLED FOR CREATION OF PAN AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE.

4. JUNE 8 EDITORIAL SHARPLY ATTACKED ANGOLAN CRITICISM OF AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE ESPECIALLY RADIO LUANDA STORY THAT IDEA OF PAN AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE ORIGINATED WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING DURING FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT. SUGGESTION IS INSULTING TO BONGO WHO CALLED THE CREATION OF FORCE AS CHAIRMAN OF OAU.

5. EDITORIAL INCLUDED NUMEROUS DIGS AT ANGOLAN REGIME IN PROCESS OF DEFENDING PAN-AFRICAN INTERVENTION FORCE CITING HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS. SINCE N'KRUMAH WAS FIRST TO PROPOSE SUCH A FORCE, EDITORIAL ASKED WHETHER THAT MEANT HE WAS A TOOL OF BRITISH IMPERIALISM JUST AS BONGO IS NOW ACCUSED OF BEING A TOOL OF FRENCH IMPERIALISM. WHY DID ANGOLA IGNORE SENGHOR LAST YEAR WHEN HE PROPOSED CREATING PAN-AFRICAN FORCE? WHY DOES ANGOLA CRITICIZE FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN STATES WHILE 20,000 FOREIGN

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TROOPS REMAIN IN ANGOLA? TO GABON, ANGOLA IS A HYPOCRITICAL LACKEY OF IMPERIALIST POWERS.

6. WHILE NOT MENTIONED OUTRIGHT, SOVIET UNION RECEIVED AN EDITORIAL SLAP ALSO. EDITORS STATED THAT GABON, UNLIKE SOME OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, DOES NOT NEED SUPPORT FROM AK-47'S AND KATIOUCHKA ROCKETS.

7. COMMENT: EDITORIAL IMPLIED THAT DESPITE GABON'S CLOSE TIES TO FRANCE, IT IS THE "PROGRESSIVE" STATS FOSTERING REVOLUTION WHICH ARE TRUE TOOLS OF IMPERIALIST POWERS. GABONESE OBVIOUSLY SENSTIVE TO ACCUSATIONS OF BEING FRANCE'S LACKEY IN AFRICA. END COMMENT.

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